

Appl. No. : 10/020,319  
Filed : December 11, 2001

## REMARKS

### A. Introduction

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application. Claims 5-10, 12-17, 24 and 26-28 are pending in the application. The Examiner has indicated that Claims 26-28 are allowed. Claims 5, 12, 14, 16 and 24 have been rewritten to be allowable as indicated by the Examiner. Claims 6-10, 13, 15 and 17, dependent upon allowable independent claims, should also be allowable. Applicants have canceled Claims 1-4, 11, 18-23 and 25 without prejudice. Applicants' claim amendments are shown on the pages above following the heading AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS. On these pages, the [[deletions are double bracketed]] while the insertions are underlined.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, and Applicants earnestly request such action. Below, Applicants address each of the Examiner's reasons for rejection.

### B. Claim Rejections

#### Malewicz et al.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 11, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,437,619 to Malewicz et al. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's grounds for rejecting these claims. Nonetheless, in order to expedite the issuance of the allowable claims, Applicants have canceled Claims 1-4, 11, 18 and 19 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these and other similar claims in continuing applications.

#### Rolfes

The Examiner rejected Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,531,515 to Rolfes. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's grounds for rejecting Claim 20. Nonetheless, in order to expedite the issuance of the allowable claims, Applicants have canceled Claim 20 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue this and other similar claims in continuing applications.

#### Rolfes in view of Deharde et al.

The Examiner rejected Claims 20-23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rolfes in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,658,241 to Deharde et al. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's grounds for rejecting these claims. Nonetheless, in

Appl. No. : 10/020,319  
Filed : December 11, 2001

order to expedite the issuance of the allowable claims, Applicants have canceled Claims 20-23 and 25 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these and other similar claims in continuing applications.

### CONCLUSION

For the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. If there is any further hindrance to allowance of the pending claims, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 5-6-04

By: 

Scott Loras Murray  
Registration No. 53,360  
Attorney of Record  
Customer No. 20,995  
(949) 760-0404

SJN-1952